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Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-ninth session the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on the work of the Institute during 2009 and 2010.

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Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on the work of the Institute during 2009 and 2010

Summary

The present report covers the activities of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development in 2009 and 2010.

The biennium was marked by several key changes in the management and funding of the Institute. Thandika Mkandawire, Director, left in April 2009, and in November 2009 a new Director, Sarah Cook, took up her post. Peter Utting served as Officer-in-Charge in the interim period. In 2009-2010, the Institute received core funding through the voluntary contributions of seven Governments, in addition to project funding from a number of donors. During this period the financial situation of the Institute deteriorated markedly, largely owing to the wider financial environment. One core donor withdrew and others reduced their contributions. Efforts were made to increase and diversify funding sources, and the Institute hosted a meeting of donors in March 2010. Reductions in staff and activities were made in response to the reduced funding.

The 2005-2009 research agenda drew to a close. Several projects were completed, leading to a large number of publications and dissemination activities. These included work within programmes on social policy in a development context, gender and development, civil society and social movements, and markets, business and regulation.

In response to the multiple crises confronting the global economy, the Institute convened, in November 2009, an international conference on the theme "Social and political dimensions of the global crisis: implications for developing countries". It also concluded a wide-ranging inquiry into the dynamics of poverty reduction, which culminated in the publication of its flagship report, *Combating Poverty and Inequality: Structural Change, Social Policy and Politics*, on the eve of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in September 2010.

During this period, the Institute paid increasing attention to ensuring the relevance of its research and dissemination activities for stakeholders within the United Nations system, the donor community, academia and civil society, in an effort to inform development policy and practice.

The Institute held extensive consultations with those constituencies during the biennium in designing a new institutional strategy for 2010-2014, which was approved by the Board in June 2010. Research planned for the coming years reflects the changed context and greater uncertainty for social development following the multiple crises in the global economy. In addition, the institutional strategy involves a strengthening of the Institute's communications activities, aimed at enhancing the relevance and impact of its research, and of its strategic resource mobilization activities, aimed at securing the financial stability of the Institute through efforts to diversify and increase core and project funding.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report covers the activities of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development in 2009 and 2010. It is submitted to the Commission for Social Development in accordance with the terms set out in Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/126 of 1 August 1963, in which it is stipulated that the Board of the Institute should, inter alia, submit regularly to the Commission "a progress report on the work of the Institute".

2. The Institute was established in 1963 to create an autonomous space within the United Nations system for policy-relevant research and dialogue on important social issues. Its enduring purpose has been to generate knowledge and articulate policy alternatives on contemporary social development processes and problems. Through its activities, the Institute contributes to the broader goals of the United Nations system of reducing poverty and inequality, advancing well-being and rights, and creating more democratic and just societies.

3. The report begins with a discussion of the financial situation of the Institute, which deteriorated markedly in 2009-2010, and the implications for staffing and institutional activities. It provides information about activities completed under the 2005-2009 research programme, which culminated in the launch of its flagship report, *Combating Poverty and Inequality: Structural Change, Social Policy and Politics*, as well as about events held and activities undertaken during the biennium. These included an international conference on the theme "Social and political dimensions of the global crisis: implications for developing countries" and a number of other initiatives. It presents the new research agenda and institutional strategy developed for the 2010-2014 period. Finally, it provides information about the work undertaken to communicate and disseminate research in order to ensure that it informs development policy and practice, concluding with a list of publications issued in 2009-2010.

II. Management, staffing and financial situation

4. As at 30 November 2010, a total of 13 staff members were under contract at the Institute in Geneva, including a director and a deputy director, four research coordinators, four publication and dissemination staff and three administrative and support staff. Two contractors were also working at the Institute, carrying out outreach tasks necessary for the fulfilment of the Institute's workplan. Five staff posts remained vacant owing to lack of funding.

5. Thandika Mkandawire, Director, left in April 2009 and a new Director, Sarah Cook, took up her post in November 2009.

6. During the reporting period, a total of 47 visiting fellows, research analysts and interns contributed to the activities of the Institute. They came from 25 countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

7. The Board of the Institute met in Geneva on 10 and 11 November 2009 and 22 and 23 June 2010.

8. In order to implement its research projects, the Institute must mobilize its own funding. It receives no money from the United Nations general budget and is funded exclusively by voluntary contributions from Member States, research foundations, United Nations agencies and other institutions.

9. The Institute entered 2010 facing critical financial constraints due to a reduction in funding from its largest core donor. This, combined with the withdrawal of a core donor and increased competition for project support in the current environment, means that the Institute faces an ongoing threat to its financial viability.

10. Short-term measures enabled the Institute to stabilize the situation for 2010, albeit at a significantly reduced level of funding. Cost-cutting measures were taken, including the loss of two staff positions (three were already vacant), reduced staff travel and fewer junior researchers and visiting fellows. As a result, capacity for new project development and research dissemination activities has been curtailed. Even with the cuts that it has made, the Institute has had to draw on reserves during 2010, and the situation is not sustainable beyond 2011.

11. The Director has worked closely with existing donors and an ad hoc working group of Board members to address the situation. The Institute also convened a donor meeting on 23 March 2010.

12. The core funding received by the Institute for 2009 amounted to $3,285,711 and has been estimated at $2,927,358 for 2010. A comparison of the core funding for 2009 with that for 2008 reflects a decrease of $396,397, and it is expected that there will be a further decrease of $358,353 in 2010 as compared with 2009. The core income represents voluntary contributions made by seven Governments in 2009 and 2010.

13. The largest contributors to core funds were Sweden and the United Kingdom, which had made three-year pledges. New agreements are currently under negotiation with those two Governments. A three-year agreement was concluded with the Government of South Africa in 2009. Annual contributions to core funds were received from Denmark, Finland, Mexico, South Africa and Switzerland. Although Switzerland made a contribution in 2009, it informed the Institute early in 2010 that it would not continue to do so in 2010.

14. During the reporting period, project-specific contributions were received from the European Community, the International Development Research Centre, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Heinrich Böll Foundation, the Institute for Futures Studies and Fundación Carolina. The level of such funding was $40,767 in 2009, while the funding pledged and due to be received in 2010 was $67,279. These lower amounts compared with 2008 reflect the project funding cycle, with many projects ending in 2009.

15. Consolidated figures presented in the table below indicate that total Institute funding (excluding miscellaneous income) for 2010 has been estimated at $2,994,637, which represents a decrease of 10 per cent in respect of 2009 and 35 per cent in respect of 2008.

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development funding, 2008-2010

(United States dollars)

	2008	*2009*	*2010*[a]
Core	3 682 108	3 285 711	2 927 358
Project	893 944	40 767	67 279
Total	**4 576 052**	**3 326 478**	**2 994 637**

[a] Estimate.

III. Research and related activities

16. Research concluded in several projects under the programme areas for the period 2005-2009: social policy and development; markets, business and regulation; gender and development; civil society and social movements; and the flagship project, poverty reduction and policy regimes. A number of special events and activities were also implemented.

A. Social policy and development

17. In 2009-2010, the social policy and development programme comprised four research projects in the latter phases of research, publication and dissemination activities.

1. Financing social policy in mineral-rich countries

18. The first project, which forms part of a broader inquiry into the various possibilities for mobilizing resources for financing social policies begun in 2006, focused on countries rich in natural resources. Some mineral-rich developing countries succeed in channelling their resources into sustainable economic and social policies, while others are less successful in that regard. The research, carried out between 2008 and 2010, identified factors that prevent resource-rich countries in the South from investing more of their wealth in social development, and highlighted ways that mineral rents can open the fiscal space for transformative social policies, while at the same time promoting democracy, social inclusion and economic development. One programme paper and an issue of *Conference News* were published. Eight papers commissioned under the project will be published in an edited volume in 2011.

2. Pension funds and economic development

19. While pension funds are often aimed at ensuring social security, they can also be used for redistributive and productive purposes. In a number of countries, social funds (pension, health and unemployment insurance funds) have been an important source of financing for investment.

20. The research under the second project, carried out between 2007 and 2010, examined the challenges relating to the management of such funds in the contexts of weak administrative capacity and macroeconomic instability; how pension schemes tackle the problems of independent and informal sector workers; how decentralized

private funds or mixed models compare with public funds; the influence of donors and other external actors with regard to pension reform in developing countries; and the impact of different kinds of pension systems on social cohesion, equity and redistribution. The output of the research will be published in an edited volume in 2011.

3. Social policy and migration in developing countries

21. The third project was carried out between 2007 and 2009. By establishing the links between South-South migration, social development and social policy in developing countries, it complemented work undertaken by other bodies of the United Nations system. The research showed how the impact of migration on development goes beyond the financial contribution made by migrants to their home countries. The impact also includes social and political "remittances" in terms of transfer of knowledge, skills and ideas, changing gender and family roles (especially independent female and child migration), and the political mobilization of migrants in receiving and sending countries. The evidence shows that migration needs to be considered an integral part of social policymaking, and vice versa, in order to foster synergies with regard to development, equity, social integration and the well-being of migrants and their families. Stronger regional partnerships and increased cooperation among Governments and non-governmental organizations are also necessary to address social issues by means of policies that not only span borders and peoples, but also promote social equity and solidarity. Findings were published in three programme papers in 2009 and in an edited volume in 2010.

4. Social policies in small States

22. The country and thematic studies carried out under the fourth project examined social policy issues facing small States and their implications for economic development. They showed how, despite their inherent vulnerability, some small States have been successful in improving their social indicators by means of the complementary social and economic policies they have implemented.

23. Research findings informed a high-level regional conference on social policies in Pacific island countries, held in Fiji in July 2009, as well as the meeting of Commonwealth Secretariat Heads of Government held in November 2009. The first two studies were published in 2010 in a joint Institute/Commonwealth Secretariat series, and the remaining papers will be issued in 2011. The Institute published one of the studies as a programme paper.

5. Results

24. Research by the Institute on social policy and development has informed a number of policy debates. The development implications of the financial and economic crisis and the role of social policy were the subject of presentations to the Swiss Network for International Stu 'ies in March 2009, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) in June 2009 and the ninth session of the Intergovernmental Council of the Management of Social Transformations programme, held at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in September 2009.

25. A book entitled *Financing Social Policy: Mobilizing Resources for Social Development* was presented at the International Foundation for Science (IFS),

Stockholm, as part of a series of lectures organized by IFS, the Nordic Africa Institute (NAI) and Stockholm University, in September 2009.

26. Insights gained from research on social protection and poverty were presented at the Arab Forum on Social Policy, organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in Beirut in October 2009, and at an expert group meeting on social integration, held in Accra in November 2009 and organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat with a view to the preparation of a draft resolution by the Commission for Social Development on promoting social integration (adopted in February 2010).

27. An international policy conference on global and national strategies for poverty reduction, organized by the BK21 programme of the Graduate School of Public Administration, Seoul National University, and the Institute, was held in September 2009.

B. Markets, business and regulation

28. Business-State relations and the role of transnational corporations in social development have undergone profound changes in recent decades, with profound implications for social well-being, equity and democratic governance. Such issues have been researched under this programme.

29. Two projects were concluding in 2009-2010: one on business regulation, non-State actors and development and the other on organized business and social policy.

1. Business regulation, non-State actors and development

30. This project assesses the effectiveness of standards-based initiatives driven by non-State actors to regulate business activities. Contributions were enlisted from 35 researchers for a volume that focuses on the potential and limits of this approach from the perspective of effective regulation and developing countries, addressing both the conceptual and the empirical dimensions. These relate to the changing nature of business regulation under conditions of contemporary capitalism; the political economy and institutional determinants of regulation that is conducive to inclusive development; and the experience and outcomes of specific regulatory initiatives with regard to which business and civil society organizations have assumed a leading role in terms of development and implementation.

2. Organized business and social policy

31. This project examined business engagement in poverty reduction and social development and the increasing capacity of organized business interests to influence public policy and development agendas. The research findings highlighted four key limitations of the contemporary "corporate social responsibility" agenda: analysis tends to be (a) ahistorical, ignoring lessons from the past that explain corporate responsibility; (b) empirically weak, failing to examine developmental impacts; (c) theoretically thin, drawing selectively on certain bodies of knowledge and ignoring others; and (d) apolitical, often ignoring the types of social forces, coalitions and alliances that are needed to redress imbalances in State-business-society relations. The research was published in two volumes during the biennium.

3. Results

32. Research undertaken by the Institute between 2005 and 2009 on corporate social responsibility, public-private partnerships and "private regulation" found that awareness of the social and environmental responsibilities of business had expanded rapidly and that there had been a proliferation of instruments and initiatives to promote corporate social responsibility and engage business in poverty reduction. Too often, however, rhetoric tends to outpace reality. The research findings suggested the need to go beyond voluntary approaches by focusing on "corporate accountability", which implies that corporations should not only answer to their stakeholders but also incur some sort of penalty in cases of non-compliance and that there should be effective grievance procedures and remedy. On invitation, the Institute presented this work and recommendations at academic institutions in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States and Spain; and contributed to expert groups convened by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in preparation for the *World Investment Report 2009* and *World Investment Report 2010*, and to the fourth Regional Development and Governance Symposium, organized by the Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey.

C. Civil society and social movements

33. Research under this programme explored the ways in which social movements and civil society organizations mobilize to voice their concerns and influence policy processes in an era of globalization and liberalization. The majority of the work had been concluded by 2008. Activities during the current reporting period related to publishing and disseminating research results.

Social responses to inequalities and policy changes

34. This project sought to examine the extent to which, and the ways in which, civil society actors that organize and mobilize in the context of issues related to global justice influence public policy in selected European countries. The project examined contemporary forms of advocacy and campaigns in France, Italy and the United Kingdom centred on debt relief, aid policy, international taxation, trade justice and corporate accountability.

35. Two programme papers were published in 2009. The final output of the research will be published in an edited volume in 2011.

D. Gender and development

36. In recent decades, the presence of women in public life has increased, whether in politics, in the workforce or in the migrant streams that cross international borders. Yet gender inequalities in terms of power remain a persistent feature of the modern world and its institutions — in markets, macroeconomic flows and social policy programmes; States, political parties and social movements; and the intimate sphere of the family, the household and the community.

37. The two projects under this programme area — *political and social economy of care*; and *religion, politics and gender equality* — were in the final publication and dissemination phases in 2009-2010.

1. Political and social economy of care

38. This project, carried out between 2007 and 2009, explored the implications of various care arrangements for those who provide care (on a paid or unpaid basis) in terms of poverty and access to social rights. Care work, both paid and unpaid, contributes to well-being, social development and economic growth. But evidence shows that the costs of providing care are unequally borne across gender and class. Families remain the key institution in meeting care needs. The policy challenge is to support them, recognize the rights of caregivers and the recipients of care, distribute the costs more evenly across society, and support professional, decently paid and compassionate forms of care.

39. Comparative research findings were assembled in four volumes; two were published in 2010 and two will be published in 2011. Five individual country studies will be published in the countries of research. Six programme papers were issued during the reporting period. A research and policy brief and an issue of *Conference News* were also published.

Results

40. Throughout the duration of the project, the Institute collaborated closely with the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Gender Team of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The project was very timely, as it coincided with the preparations for and the holding of the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2009, whose priority theme was the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS.

41. The Institute participated in the Expert Group Meeting organized with the purpose of contributing to the debates on the priority theme and assisting the Commission in its deliberations. The Institute's background paper fed directly into the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2009/2) as well as the 2009 *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development*.[1]

42. The Institute was represented at the fifty-third session of the Commission, where the project's findings were presented at an official side event chaired by the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, as well as at panels organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women and UNDP.

43. The Institute organized a one-day public conference at Barnard College, Columbia University, New York, in March 2009. The research provided the foundation for the 2009 Women in Development Europe annual conference (June 2009). National research teams presented their findings at a conference organized by the Institute of Social Studies Trust and the United Nations Children's Fund-India (December 2009). The Institute was invited to present the findings at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (May 2009); the Amsterdam School for

[1] *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development: Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources, including Microfinance* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.IV.7).

Social Science Research (November 2009); and the Institute for the Study of the Americas (December 2009).

44. Building on the findings resulting from the research on care, the Institute convened a workshop in December 2010 to explore the politics of gender-egalitarian policy change (in the arena of social policy and more broadly) and help design a new research project on when and why States respond to claims-making by women.

2. Religion, politics and gender equality

45. This project was carried out between 2007 and 2010. Comparative research was undertaken on the interaction of religion and politics in selected national settings and the implications of that nexus for gender equality and feminist politics.

46. During the reporting period, research findings were being assembled in two volumes; one was published in 2010 and one will be published in 2011. Three programme papers were issued.

Results

47. The Institute has worked closely with both the United Nations Development Fund for Women (Central and Eastern Europe Office) and the United Nations Population Fund in carrying out the project.

48. A public conference on the project was held at the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin, in June 2009. It attracted researchers, policy actors and activists working in the area of religion and gender equality.

49. The Institute was invited to disseminate the research findings via openDemocracy, an independent global current affairs website dedicated to promoting human rights and democracy through dialogue and debate. Jointly with the Heinrich Böll Foundation, the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), the Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation (HIVOS) and the University for Humanist Studies, the Institute is leading an online forum and debate on the theme entitled "Religion Gender Politics: prospects for equality and pluralism".

3. Work, informality and the search for security in a changing world

50. There is increasing concern worldwide about the informalization of work and its implications for poverty and well-being. Employment that is increasingly informal cannot pull households out of poverty. Work-related rights and benefits are lacking in informal jobs, excluding millions of men and women from social protection and thus trapping them in insecurity and poverty.

51. The mainstream anti-poverty and social protection agenda has tended to focus on extending social assistance to particular "vulnerable groups" (children, the elderly, people with disabilities) who are unable to participate in paid work. Many of the new social protection programmes direct their financial transfers (and the responsibilities associated with them) to women, in their capacity as mothers or household managers. At the same time, gender is one of the most pervasive dimensions within which labour markets, and work more broadly, are embedded. The relationship between employment/work rights and social rights can therefore be usefully explored through a gender lens.

52. The Institute commissioned two background papers in 2010. Funding is being sought for cross-country comparative research that would explore the connections between social protection programmes targeted at women and the changing nature of labour markets.

IV. Special events and activities

Social and political dimensions of the global crisis

53. In response to the multiple crises that hit the global economy in 2008, the Institute convened an international conference on the theme "Social and political dimensions of the global crisis: implications for developing countries". An open call for papers generated 330 responses, 24 of which were selected for presentation. The event was held in Geneva on 12 and 13 November 2009, and attracted more than 150 participants from all sectors, including United Nations agencies, Government and donor representatives, and scholars from at least 14 countries. Presentations provided rich empirical detail about the impacts of the crisis in a range of countries and on different social groups, and stimulated debate around neglected aspects of the crisis and the types of policy changes needed to address them, as well as the potential for an alternative development paradigm rather than a return to "business as usual".

54. A summary of the conference discussions and debates, highlighting key policy issues, was posted on the Institute website in December 2009, and an issue of *Conference News* was published in 2010. Conference findings were presented at the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and at the Novartis Foundation Symposium in November 2009. The Institute produced a series of five podcasts featuring extracts and commentary from the event. An edited volume, provisionally entitled *The Global Crisis and Transformative Social Change*, will be published in 2011.

Combating poverty and inequality: structural change, social policy and politics

55. The Institute published its flagship report, *Combating Poverty and Inequality: Structural Change, Social Policy and Politics*, on the eve of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in September 2010. It represented the culmination of a wide-ranging inquiry into the dynamics of poverty reduction carried out between 2006 and 2010 that entailed nearly 20 in-depth case studies and country surveys, more than 40 specially commissioned background papers, and research across all Institute programmes.

56. Institute research engaged with current policy debates on poverty and inequality from a developmental and social policy perspective. It assessed a range of contemporary approaches to poverty reduction, identified key institutional, policy and political issues that were not being addressed in current poverty reduction strategies and examined the contradictions, complementarities and synergies among the various components of "policy regimes", including social, labour market and macroeconomic policies, and political and regulatory institutions.

57. The report highlighted three crucial elements of a sustainable and inclusive development strategy: sustained growth and structural change that create jobs and improved earnings for the vast majority of people; comprehensive social policies that are grounded in universal rights; and civic activism and political arrangements that ensure that States are responsive to the needs of all citizens.

Dissemination of the report

58. The launch of the report was a joint event with the United Nations Office at Geneva and took place on 3 September 2010. Distinguished speakers included the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, the Coordinator of the South Centre's Global Governance for Development Programme, and the holder of the Chair in African Development at the London School of Economics. The event attracted over 150 attendees from the international policy community, civil society and academia.

59. In the three months following the launch, the report was presented at 16 events in 13 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and North America. The events were organized with counterparts from the United Nations system, national Governments and academia.

60. The report attracted significant media coverage, including 40 blog postings, features and editorials in *The Hindu*, *China Daily*, the *Daily Mirror* and *Time* magazine, and is on academic reading lists in the United Kingdom and the United States. Parts of the launch at Geneva were filmed by the UNCTAD Virtual Institute and are available on its website as training and teaching resources.

61. The report Overview was published in Arabic in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and presented at a joint event in Beirut in November 2010.

62. A Chinese edition of the Overview was published in collaboration with the School of Social Development and Public Policy of Beijing Normal University. It was presented in Beijing in October 2010 at the high-level Poverty Reduction and Development Forum, and at a seminar organized by Peking University and the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China.

63. The partner organizations are ensuring wide dissemination of the Arabic and Chinese editions throughout their respective regions.

64. The Institute translated the Overview into French for use in dissemination activities in francophone countries in 2011. The Government of Mexico earmarked its 2010 contribution to the Institute's core funds for a Spanish translation of the report, to be used in presentations in Latin America and the Caribbean planned for 2011.

65. Research carried out by the Institute on poverty reduction was taken up in a number of processes, including the drafting of the *World Economic and Social Survey 2010*, which addresses policy coherence, and activities in the lead up to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals. Participation by the Institute in discussions in that context contributed to the emphasis placed on universal approaches to social

protection in the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting, entitled "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals".[2]

Development forum for the G-20

66. Most actions in response to the crisis have focused on stabilizing the global economy and adjusting the international financial architecture. With few exceptions, social development has been neglected, except in terms of residual mechanisms to protect the most vulnerable.

67. In response to this situation, the Institute, in partnership with Seoul National University and the Korea International Cooperation Agency, organized a series of activities designed to identify and debate critical social development issues that should inform global forums such as the G-20. Activities included a web-based discussion forum; a symposium, held in Seoul on 21 and 22 October 2010; and a televised debate among leading development thinkers, aired on the Korean Broadcasting System (domestic and world) on 9 and 10 November 2010 on the eve of the Seoul G-20 Summit.

68. Key elements of an alternative development strategy, reflecting the interests of both G-20 and non-G-20 members, were identified and elaborated through that set of activities. Particular emphasis was placed on sharing lessons drawn from the experiences of the Republic of Korea in the area of national development and its response to multiple crises. The timing and location of the symposium and the television broadcast raised awareness among policy, civil society and academic audiences of possible alternative approaches to social development that should be placed more prominently on the agenda of the G-20.

Social pensions for older people in Asia

69. The Institute was invited by the Asian Development Bank to participate in a project on social pensions for older people in Asia that aims to assess the origin, impacts and institutional models of various programmes and policies designed to establish non-contributory social pensions in Asia and to distil policy lessons for similar schemes in the region. The Institute's contribution, a paper on the political economy of old-age social protection, focuses on the main drivers, actors and various contexts that have been conducive to social pension reform in Asia. It analyses the processes leading to different policy models implemented in Asia and draws comparative lessons from the experience of similar reforms in other developing countries in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa.

70. The contribution will be presented at a workshop in Bangkok in February 2011 and will form part of an Asian Development Bank publication on social pensions. A joint publication by the Institute and the Bank is envisaged.

[2] See resolution 65/1.

Social policy as a key to sustainable development

71. The Institute, in partnership with GTZ, organized a high-level international expert meeting on the theme "Social policy as a key to sustainable development: approaches and practical experiences" in Berlin in December 2010, with the participation of policymakers, development experts and academics. The meeting emphasized the contribution of research for the conceptual, strategic and practical work of GTZ and technical cooperation organizations more generally. Main topics of discussion were the relationship between social policy, economic development and labour markets; the role of social services for social development and gender equality; the linkages between social policy and climate change; and the role of institutions and participation.

72. The Institute prepared the background note for the meeting. It will be further developed, taking into account the results of the meeting, into a concept paper for publication with GTZ in 2011.

Democracy, social justice and economic security

73. In June 2010, the Institute was invited to join a new task force on democracy, social justice and economic security under the auspices of the American Political Science Association. The aim of the task force is to bring relevant and timely research to the attention of policymakers and the public and to promote interest in policy alternatives.

74. The task force is examining policy innovations in the areas of participatory governance, rights-based approaches to democracy and development and economic citizenship that have had (or could have) a significant transformative social impact and could be adapted for use in other contexts.

75. The task force will create an interactive website for both networking and dissemination. The work of the task force will be presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association in September 2011.

V. Institutional strategy, 2010-2014

76. A major activity during the 2009-2010 biennium was the development of a new institutional strategy for the Institute for the period 2010-2014. This involved extensive consultation with stakeholders within the United Nations system, the donor community, academia and civil society, as well as the Board, in 2009 and 2010. In April 2010, with funding from the Government of Sweden, the Institute organized a staff training workshop on results-based management in order to strengthen in-house capacity to implement the strategy.

77. The institutional strategy combines the research agenda (discussed and approved by the Board in June 2010) with additional goals in the areas of communicating research results to ensure that they inform development policy and practice and securing the financial future of the Institute. The strategy forms the basis of the Institute's requests for core funding for the period 2011-2014.

78. The strategy lays out the following key objectives for the Institute for 2010-2014:

(a) **Research**. Generate policy-relevant research findings that contribute to reframing the contemporary development debate by demonstrating:

(i) How issues of social justice, equity and sustainability need to be central to development goals and policies, rather than viewed as subordinate and residual to economic policies and growth;

(ii) The critical role of social policies, and their feasibility and affordability, in contributing to sustainable and equitable development;

(iii) The politics and institutional arrangements needed for progressive social change;

(b) **Communications**. Increase the visibility of the Institute and promote the use of its research findings by stakeholders within the United Nations system, the donor community, academia and civil society in order to reframe debates and inform policy and practice;

(c) **Fund-raising**. Secure the long-term stability of the Institute through diversification and mobilization of resources for core and project activities.

Research

79. The current global context has created a new climate and sense of urgency for addressing problems of poverty, inequity and social injustice. Despite the progress made in placing social issues on the global development agenda, the current context of fiscal constraint and concern about slow growth increases the danger of a return to policies that neglect social spending and, thus, the basis for inclusion, equity, poverty reduction and, ultimately, a sustainable growth path.

80. Building on the Institute's prior research findings that broad-based social policies and particular forms of inclusive politics have been critical to the achievement of equitable and sustainable development trajectories, the new research agenda will explore the role that social policies play in generating sustainable growth with equity in the twenty-first century development context; how these can be extended and financed, including in conditions of informality and State fragility and to marginalized groups such as migrants; and the politics and institutional arrangements needed for progressive social change.

81. The research agenda is framed around two main themes: social policies for inclusive and sustainable development; and politics and institutional dynamics of social development.

82. Other research-related activities and special events are planned, including on gender equity and women's empowerment, and climate change as a social development issue, as well as to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Institute, in 2013.

Social policies for inclusive and sustainable development

83. Responses to recent crises risk once again marginalizing social issues in the context of the growth-focused development agenda. Institute research has

consistently focused on the uneven impacts of development processes (such as globalization), policies (such as structural adjustments) and events (such as crises). It has demonstrated that social policies provide a critical mechanism by which societies can achieve more equitable, poverty-reducing and sustainable growth paths.

84. New research will further explore the complex links between economic and social institutions, policies and outcomes, investigating how policies that protect the vulnerable, reduce inequalities and poverty, ensure social reproduction and contribute to the productivity of labour can be made a central component of mainstream development policies at the international and national levels.

85. The Institute is currently seeking funds to initiate research or expand ongoing work on the following topics:

(a) Social policies and informal employment, including gender aspects;

(b) South-south migration, including gender aspects;

(c) Social policies and regional governance;

(d) Financing social policies in times of crisis;

(e) Financing social policy in mineral-rich economies;

(f) Universalizing social service provision;

(g) Alternative strategies for economic and social development in large emerging economies;

(h) Social economy approaches to inclusive and sustainable development.

Politics and the institutional dynamics of social development

86. Research under this theme will examine the politics and processes through which State and non-State actors can deliver improved welfare outcomes to citizens, including the question of how resources are mobilized and allocated for developmental outcomes. What are the possibilities for democratic States with an active citizenry and an enforceable social contract in the twenty-first century? What political processes and institutional arrangements foster positive social change?

87. Prior research demonstrates that social development requires effective and accountable States, the institutionalization of rights, sustained public engagement and types of policies that empower the poor or marginalized groups to exercise influence in how policies are made and resources allocated. Policy reforms for effective States with progressive social agendas and an active citizenry remain disappointing, often ignoring structural factors that reproduce inequalities in power relations, or neglecting informal kinds of mobilization and citizen action.

88. The Institute is currently seeking funds to initiate research or expand ongoing work on the following topics:

(a) The politics of resource mobilization for social development;

(b) Participatory institutions, empowerment and policy change;

(c) Understanding gender-egalitarian policy change;

(d) Market regulation and accountability for social development.

Communications

89. The Institute has a unique position at the interface of international organizations, civil society and the academic community; it works in collaboration with an extensive global network of researchers and institutions; and it retains significant convening power. Through its communications strategy, it aims to capitalize on these advantages to ensure that its research findings inform development debates, policies and practice. Between January and March 2011, the Institute will undertake a strategic assessment and define new directions for its communications strategy to be implemented from 2011 to 2014. The outcome will be an innovative and creative approach to the use of varied communication outputs and channels appropriate for different audiences. These could include (but would not be limited to) more systematic inclusion of communications strategies throughout all projects, in collaboration with local researchers and advocacy groups; improved branding of Institute outputs; an upgraded web platform; and partnerships (where appropriate) with knowledge intermediaries. Activities will be carefully budgeted for to ensure affordability and sustainability in relation to other institutional objectives.

Fund-raising

90. Against the backdrop of the critical financial situation faced by the Institute in 2010, it has prioritized the development and implementation of a resource mobilization strategy aimed at increasing and diversifying its funding sources. This will include working more closely with selected United Nations agencies; identifying new or non-traditional donors; stabilizing and, where possible, increasing funds from existing donors; and creating new partnerships with research institutions to facilitate access to other sources of research funding (such as through research councils). Other measures necessary to improve the financial sustainability of the Institute will be explored as part of the 2011-2014 strategy.

VI. Outreach: networking, dissemination and publications

91. The Institute positions its work at the interface of the international development policy community, academia and civil society. In its networking and dissemination activities, it aims to achieve the greatest possible awareness on the part of, and availability and accessibility of its research to those diverse audiences.

92. In 2009-2010, a portfolio of publications, mechanisms and activities supported those goals. Publications included academic and commercially co-published volumes, programme papers and research and policy briefs; mechanisms ranged from the distribution of traditional printed products to Internet-based tools and CD-ROMs. Activities such as speaking engagements, consultations and dissemination events and workshops were also used to network and to communicate research results directly (and indirectly, through knowledge multipliers) to key stakeholders.

Networking

93. In March 2009, the Institute participated in a two-day meeting of the directors of the seven United Nations research and training institutes aimed at building

bridges among the institutes, increasing their visibility within the United Nations, identifying opportunities for harmonizing certain procedures, and better coordinating their primary functions to support the United Nations system. With the support of the Secretary-General, the institutes agreed to increase cooperation and to clarify certain processes and procedures to allow the institutes to better fulfil their mandates.

94. The Institute undertakes its research through networks of scholars throughout the world. Many scholars are brought into these networks through short-term collaborations on specific projects. Researchers from the South, in particular, appreciate the access this affords them to wider research (including South-South) and United Nations networks; activities such as methodology workshops and comparative studies which expose young researchers to new methods and debates; and a platform for promoting work on the global stage and, in particular, within the United Nations system.

95. The Institute regularly engages with relevant United Nations processes, disseminating its work through participation in United Nations activities and events and through relations with United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and regional commissions. Staff members also respond to requests from multilateral and bilateral organizations, Governments, non-governmental organizations, research institutes and universities. In 2009-2010, Institute staff responded to more than 100 invitations to carry out advisory and consultancy activities.

96. Research and dissemination staff also regularly present the Institute and its work to visiting groups of students. Its work was showcased at the first Global Model United Nations Conference during a panel discussion and knowledge fair held in August 2009. This was a valuable opportunity to reach out to more than 500 university students from around the world participating in the conference, whose theme was "The Millennium Development Goals: lifting the bottom billion out of poverty".

97. In 2010, the Institute intensified its web presence via Web 2.0 and social networking sites, and the number of people following the Institute's work via those sites grew significantly. In this connection, the Institute produced 20 podcasts and videos during the reporting period. They are accessible from the Institute website, i-Tunes and the Institute's YouTube channel. As part of its communications assessment and strategy, the Institute will be considering future options for the use of social media for research communication and engagement with certain audiences.

Dissemination

98. The Institute is disseminating an increasing volume of material via its website (www.unrisd.org). *UNRISD News* was relaunched as a quarterly electronic bulletin in June 2010; three were issued during the year. Users downloaded more than 301,669 PDF documents and publications in 2009 and 358,267 between January and October 2010. Statistics showed a continued positive trend in the number of unique visitors to the website, with an average of 41,000 per month in 2009 and nearly 53,000 per month in 2010. The number of subscribers to the myUNRISD facility, by means of which users receive e-mail alerts and download publications, continued to grow, reaching 39,000 in October 2010. Geographically, 8 of the top 20 visitor countries to the website were in the South.

99. In 2009-2010, the Institute also disseminated 25,000 copies of its publications and CD-ROMs free of charge at more than 100 events. Approximately 56 per cent of the events were held in developing countries, with approximately 42 per cent being held by or with other United Nations entities.

Publications

100. The Institute issued 51 publications in 2009-2010, including 12 books/journal special issues and 22 programme papers. It also issued two CD-ROMs containing catalogue information and full text (PDF) of all in-house publications. These are distributed free of charge in order to increase the availability and accessibility of the Institute's publications. The books, reports, research and policy briefs, programme papers, newsletters and CD-ROMs issued by the Institute are set out below.

Books

Shahra Razavi and Silke Staab, eds. *Underpaid and Overworked: A Cross-National Perspective on Care Workers. Special issue of International Labour Review*, vol. 149, No. 4, December 2010.

Anne Jenichen and Shahra Razavi, eds. *The Unhappy Marriage of Religion and Politics: Problems and Pitfalls for Gender Equality*. Special issue of *Third World Quarterly*, vol. 31, No. 6, 2010.

Jane Jenson. *Defining and Measuring Social Cohesion*. Commonwealth Secretariat and UNRISD, 2010.

Katja Hujo and Nicola Piper. *South-South Migration: Implications for Social Policy and Development*. UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

Debbie Budlender, ed. *Time Use Studies and Unpaid Care Work*. Routledge/UNRISD Research in Gender and Development, 2010.

José Carlos Marques and Peter Utting, eds. *Business, Politics and Public Policy: Implications for Inclusive Development*. UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

José Carlos Marques and Peter Utting, eds. *Corporate Social Responsibility and Regulatory Governance: Towards Inclusive Development?*. UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

Katja Hujo and Shea McClanahan, eds. *Financing Social Policy: Mobilizing Resources for Social Development*. UNRISD/Palgrave Macmillan, 2009.

Nora McKeon. *The United Nations and Civil Society: Legitimating Global Governance — Whose Voice?* UNRISD/Zed Books, 2009.

Teresa S. Encarnacion Tadem, ed. *Localizing and Transnationalizing Contentious Politics: Global Civil Society Movements in the Philippines*. UNRISD/Lexington Books, 2009.

Huck-ju Kwon, Thandika Mkandawire and Joakim Palme, eds. *Social Policy and Economic Development in Late Industrializers: UNRISD Research Findings, International Journal of Social Welfare*, vol. 18, Supplement 1. Blackwell Publishing, 2009.

Shahra Razavi, ed. *The Gendered Impacts of Liberalization: Towards "Embedded Liberalism"?*. Routledge/UNRISD Research in Gender and Development, 2009.

Reports

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (2010). *Combating Poverty and Inequality: Structural Change, Social Policy and Politics*. Sales No. E.10.III.Y.1.

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (2010). *Combating Poverty and Inequality: Structural Change, Social Policy and Politics* (Overview).

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, in partnership with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (2010). *Combating Poverty and Inequality: Structural Change, Social Policy and Politics* (Overview) (Arabic edition).

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, in partnership with Beijing Normal University (2010). *Combating Poverty and Inequality: Structural Change, Social Policy and Politics* (Overview) (Chinese edition).

Research and policy briefs

RPB 10s: "La lucha contra la pobreza y la desigualdad". December 2010.

RPB 10f: "Combattre la pauvreté et les inégalités". November 2010.

RPB 10e: "Combating poverty and inequality". May 2010.

RPB 9s: "Cuál es la importancia del cuidado para el desarrollo social". May 2010.

RPB 9f: "Pourquoi les soins sont importants pour le développement social". April 2010.

RPB 9e: "Why care matters for social development". February 2010.

RPB 8s: "Respuestas comunitarias al VIH y el SIDA". December 2009.

RPB 8f: "Ripostes communautaires au VIH et au sida". December 2009.

RPB 8e: "Community Responses to HIV and AIDS". September 2009.

Programme papers

Civil society and social movements

PP-CSSM-32: Anthony Bebbington, "Social movements and poverty in developing countries". October 2010 (E-paper).

PP-CSSM-31: Jem Bendell and Annekathrin Ellersiek, "Noble networks? Advocacy for global justice and the 'network effect'". February 2009.

Democracy, governance and well-being

PP-DGWB-1: Thandika Mkandawire, "Institutional monocropping and monotasking in Africa". July 2009.

Gender and development

PP-GD-13: Fiona Williams, "Claiming and framing in the making of care policies: the recognition and redistribution of care". November 2010.

PP-GD-12: Anna C. Korteweg and Gökçe Yurdakul, "Religion, culture and the politicization of honour-related violence: a critical analysis of media and policy debates in Western Europe and North America". October 2010.

PP-GD-11: Mariz Tadros, "Faith-based organizations and service delivery: some gender conundrums". September 2010.

PP-GD-10: Silke Staab and Roberto Gerhard, "Childcare service expansion in Chile and Mexico: for women or children or both?". June 2010.

PP-GD-9: Aya Abe, "The changing shape of the care diamond: the case of child and elderly care in Japan". June 2010.

PP-GD-8: Juliana Martínez Franzoni, with Carmen Largaespada-Fredersdorff, "The political and social economy of care in Nicaragua: familialism of care under an exclusionary social policy regime". February 2010.

PP-GD-7: Kate Bedford, "Harmonizing global care policy? Care and the Commission on the Status of Women". February 2010.

PP-GD-6: Ito Peng, "The political and social economy of care in the Republic of Korea". October 2009.

PP-GD-5: José Casanova and Anne Phillips, "A debate on the public role of religion and its social and gender implications". September 2009.

Markets, business and regulation

PP-MBR-7: Manuel Mejido Costoya, Peter Utting and Gloria Carrión, "The changing coordinates of trade and power in Latin America: implications for policy space and policy coherence". May 2010.

PP-MBR-6: Michel Capron, "De la Françafrique à la responsabilité sociale des entreprises: les dynamiques entre les firmes, l'Etat et les mouvements sociaux en France". November 2009.

PP-MBR-5: Gloria Carrión, "Trade, regionalism and the politics of policymaking in Nicaragua". June 2009.

Social policy and development

PP-SPD-45: Godfrey Baldacchino, "The power of jurisdiction in promoting social policies in small States" (e-paper). 2010 (forthcoming).

PP-SPD-44: Leonith Hinojosa, Anthony Bebbington and Tony Addison, "Social policy and State revenues in mineral-rich contexts". September 2010.

PP-SPD-43: Mary Njeri Kinyanjui, "Social relations and associations in the informal sector in Kenya" (e-paper). January 2010.

PP-SPD-42: Armando Barrientos, "Social protection and poverty" (e-paper). January 2010.

PP-SPD-41: Eleonore Kofman and Parvati Raghuram, "The implications of migration for gender and care regimes in the South". July 2009.

PP-SPD-40: Arjan de Haan and Shahin Yaqub, "Migration and poverty: linkages, knowledge gaps and policy implications". June 2009.

PP-SPD-39: Nicola Piper, "Migration and social development: organizational and political dimensions". May 2009.

Newsletters

CN 25: "Social and political dimensions of the global crisis: implications for developing countries". Report of the UNRISD conference (Geneva, 12 and 13 November 2009). April 2010.

CN 24: "The political and social economy of care". Report of the UNRISD conference (Barnard College, Columbia University, New York, 6 March 2009). September 2009.

CN 23: "Social policy in mineral-rich countries". Report of the UNRISD workshop (Geneva, 24 and 25 April 2008). September 2009.

CD-ROMs

Combating Poverty and Inequality: Structural Change, Social Policy and Politics. 2010.

UNRISD Library 2008-2009. 2010.